

Habitat-Homes For Wildlife



**Grade 6
First Place**

Sara A.

Lincoln Elementary
Jamestown.

*Theme: Habitat –
Homes for Wildlife.*

*Sponsor: U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, North
Dakota Chapter of the
Wildlife Society.*

By Craig Bihrlle

The ditches and median along a small segment of Interstate 94, from the Missouri River eastward to exit 35 in Bismarck, provide a periodic reminder that the work of Keep North Dakota Clean is not yet complete.

Local patrons of KNDC, in a shining example of “practice-what-you-preach” ethic, try to keep this half-mile corridor of concrete and grass litter-free through the State Department of Transportation’s Adopt-A-Highway program. Several times a year, KNDC members patrol the margins of this scenic window above the Missouri, picking up paper and plastic, cans and bottles and other assorted garbage that, for the most part, didn’t get there by itself.

“Our little stretch of freeway that KNDC is trying to keep clean is just shocking,” says Margaret Fiechtner, Bismarck, president of the non-profit statewide organization. “Three months after we do it, it’s just a real mess again.”

In the 21st century, it is disturbing that litter is still an issue. Two generations of Americans – today’s grandparents and baby-boomer parents – embraced a compelling nationwide campaign featuring Iron Eyes Cody more than 30 years ago. At about the same time, Keep North Dakota Clean localized the anti-litter message and began delivering it to kids.



Keeping North Dakota Clean **For 34 Years, Poster Contest has Promoted a Clean Outdoors**

KNDC got its start in the late 1960s through the interests of the late Sam McQuade, Sr., Bismarck, and Tiny Schaefer, Jamestown, both of whom were involved in the beverage business. At the time, recycling of bottles and cans was just starting to become a big issue. Litter control has always been at the forefront of KNDC efforts, and in recent years the program has evolved to embrace the health of North Dakota's natural environment as well.

"Our mission is to promote keeping our state beautiful and litter free," Fiechtner stated.

KNDC does that, primarily, by sponsoring an annual poster contest in all North Dakota elementary schools. It is the longest running art contest in the state, according to Fiechtner, and attracts the most young artists. "We have parents (who once participated) whose children are now taking part in the poster contest," Fiechtner related.

In 2002, 10,355 students in grades 1-6 submitted an entry for the KNDC contest. That's about one of every six elementary students in the state who took the time to craft a poster. The contest, Fiechtner says, helps children develop an awareness they will carry on to adulthood, and what better way to create an early impression than drawing thoughts about an idea on paper.

Each grade level addresses a different theme. Classroom teachers choose local place winners, while KNDC's 16 board members select first, second and third place winners statewide. The top three artists in each grade, and their teachers and parents, are invited to an awards presentation and luncheon. The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn hosted the 2002 event, as it will for the next couple of years as KNDC focuses its

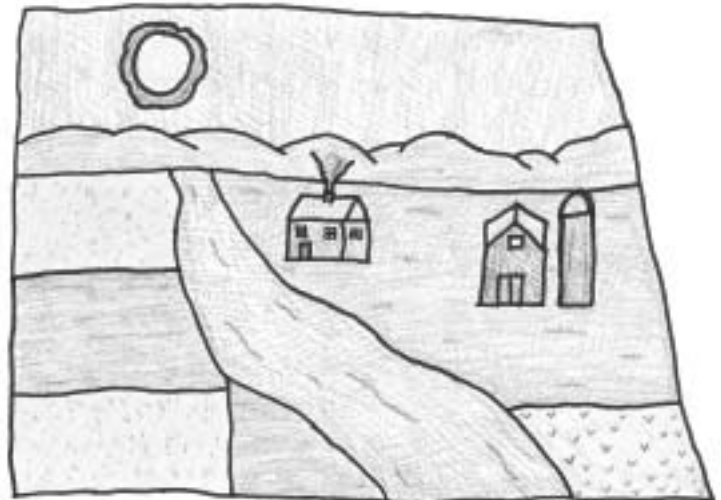
**Grade 2
First Place**
Marissa E.
Griggs County
Central,

Cooperstown
*Theme: Clean Lakes...
A Clear Choice.*
*Sponsor: North Dakota
Department of Health,
Divisions of Water
Quality and Solid Waste.*

CLEAN LAKES

A CLEAR CHOICE

USING AND PROTECTING



OUR WATER

**Grade 3
First Place**

Trey J.
Alexander School,
Alexander
*Theme: Using and
Protecting Our Water.*
*Sponsor: North Dakota
Water Commission,
Project WET.*

Photo Omitted

poster contest themes on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

First place winners in each grade have their posters blown up into billboards that appear along highways in the state, thanks to sponsorship with Newman Outdoor Advertising of Jamestown. "We try to put the first-place winning billboard as close to the students' home town as possible on the freeways," Fiechtner said.

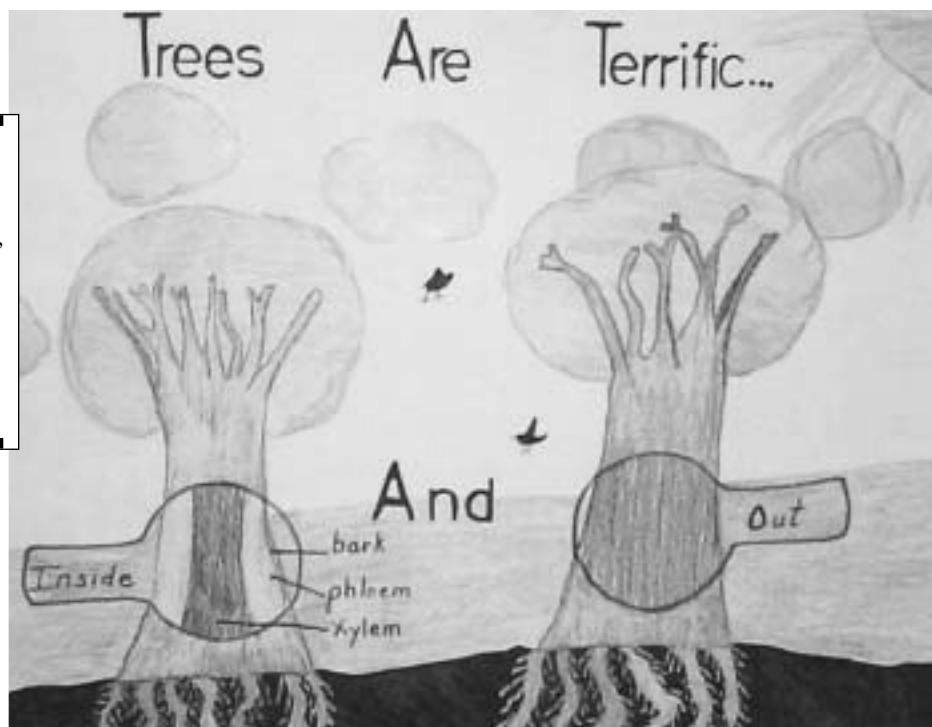
KNDC is run by volunteers who get a great deal of satisfaction by helping promote a cleaner state, from road ditches to waterways. Recent partnerships with natural resources agencies have broadened KNDC's scope, to include not only picking up litter, but also keeping natural areas clean and pristine for wildlife and people. "It all contributes to a cleaner environment and a more scenic and beautiful place to live," Fiechtner said.

After 34 years and more than 300,000 posters, however, there is that weight of unfinished business – verified by periodic outings to clean up a short run of freeway within which people still choose to cast garbage out vehicle windows.

And so, Keep North Dakota Clean continues to try to add supporters and develop ways to reach and influence more people. "I think we need this message more than we have ever needed this message," Fiechtner affirmed.

CRAIG BIHRLE is the Department's communications supervisor.

**Grade 5
First Place**
Whitney M.
Edison Elementary,
Minot.
Theme:
Trees are Terrific...
Inside and Out.
Sponsor: North Dakota
Forest Service, Project
Learning Tree.



**Grade 1
First Place**
Abigail F.
Burke Central
School, Lignite
Theme: Keep North
Dakota Clean.
Sponsor: North Dakota
Department of
Transportation
and KNDC.



2002 Keep Dakota Clean Sponsors

ND Department of Agriculture
ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society
ND Department of Health
Division of Waste Management
Division of Water Quality
ND Department of Transportation
ND Forest Service
Community Forestry
Project Learning Tree
ND State Water Commission
Project WET

Deans Foods/Land 'O Lakes, Inc.
Dr. Marcus and Margaret Fiechtner
Newman Outdoor Advertising
Pro Forms
Basin Electric Power Co.
BNI Coal, Ltd.
Capital Credit Union
Cass County Electric Cooperative
Central Power Electric Cooperative
Falkirk Mining Co.
Ottertail Power Company

Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge
Fraternal Order of Eagles
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ND Association of Soil Conservation
Districts
ND Council of the Arts
ND Department of Public Instruction
ND Game and Fish Department
ND Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center
ND Parks and Recreation
ND Department of Tourism



Special Needs

First Place

Aaron W.

Madison

Elementary, Fargo.

Theme: Keep North

Dakota Clean.

Sponsor: North Dakota

Department of

Transportation

and KNDC.



Grade 4

First Place

Kyle R.

Jefferson

Elementary,

Dickinson.

Theme: Sharing

Our Resources.

Sponsor: North Dakota

Department of

Agriculture.